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15 May 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: PRAFTOLD

FROM: [ ]

SUBJECT: HTGRUBBY Monthly Report, 15 April to 15 May 1953

1. Program Content

Propaganda items stressed during this period included President Eisenhower's address, the Soviet peace campaign, Secretary Dulles' speech and the critical situation of the Communist party in the Soviet. The talks on the four principles of the N.C.F.A. were repeated now that the reception of HTGRUBBY has improved considerably (see below). Several appeals were made to the Albanian worker, to the stooges of the Sigurini, as well as other sections of the populace. In addition, Communist court trials and May Day demonstrations were exposed as being rigged and hypocritical.

2. Transmission

Commencing 17 April the 2.5 KW transmitters were used on a daily basis to broadcast both morning programs of HTGRUBBY.

3. Reception and Effect

Regular monitoring reports have been received from Bari covering the period from 1 April onward. The reports show that about the middle of April there was a definite improvement in reception so that HTGRUBBY could be heard as clearly as the local stations. The reports did not state whether the morning broadcasts were even more easily audible than the afternoon and evening transmissions, but a query will be sent since it would be interesting to learn the effect of the 2.5 KW transmitters. The group dropped to Apple Team were briefed on our desire to obtain up to date information on reception and effect of HTGRUBBY, but we do not expect to hear from them on this subject until the ex-filtration mission is completed.

4. Personnel

The morale of the HTGRUBBY staff reached a low point during this period as a result of two events. First, was the devaluation of the drachmas which was a hard blow to HTGRUBBY personnel as the drachmas figure of their salaries was not increased. This caused hard feelings because the staff maintains their salaries are on a dollar basis. Then came a crisis as a result of the repercussions of the "aide memoire" passed to [ ] by the XNMALEDICT party in Rome. This will be discussed at greater length in a future dispatch.

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The shortage of personnel problem continues to grow worse since not only is [ ] about to depart, but AIRLESS claims that as a married man he finds that with the devaluation of the drachmas his obligations to his father in Egypt and the increase asked in his rent, it is impossible to continue to live in Athens and will take the first opportunity to leave unless his salary is adjusted. It is also felt that it would not be advisable now to ask Identity (1) to come from Rome since he too is a family man.

Both [ ] and AIRLESS have had to spend several days acting as interpreters for the French Commission which is interviewing refugees for migration to France. RNADUANA had a heart attack on 14 May while on a visit to Lavrion. Fortunately, it appears that it was not too serious, and he was able to return to limited duties at the studio.

For the past two months [ ] has been submitting several excellent scripts which have been used on HTGRUBBY. This work by [ ] has been especially helpful during these last few weeks because of personnel shortage.

Attachment under separate cover  
Identity (1)

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KAPOK 1649

Enc. #1 to SLL 4281

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Attachment to HTRUBBY Monthly  
Report, dated 15 May 1953

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MAY 29 1953

Identity (1) - Thanos Gega]

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